AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) A supporting installation for supporting a number of turns, extending helically one upon the other in a stack, of an at least partly self-supporting conveyor belt, comprising:

at least one bearing element for supporting the conveyor belt;

a section for supporting the bearing element, said section being extended in an endless loop along which the bearing element is movable; and

wherein the at least one bearing element is a roller bearing element comprising a plurality of first and second rollers.

31. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the first roller has an axis which is oriented in a first direction parallel with a plane made up by two mutually orthogonal axes which are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the section.

32. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the second roller has an axis which is oriented in a second direction parallel with a plane made up by two mutually orthogonal axes which are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the section.

33. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the first roller is adapted to receive vertical forces.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

34. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the second roller is adapted to receive radially directed forces.

35. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the first roller has an axis which is oriented in the transverse direction of the section.

36. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the second roller has an axis which is oriented perpendicular both to the axis of the first roller and to the longitudinal direction of the section.

37. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the first and the second rollers are alternately arranged in the longitudinal direction of the bearing element.

38. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the rollers are spaced from each other.

39. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein neighbouring rollers are interconnected to form a bearing element which is continuously extended in its longitudinal direction.

40. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 39, wherein the interconnected rollers form an endless bearing element.

41. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the diameter of the one of the first and second rollers is greater than the width of the other of the first and second rollers.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

42. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the geometric center of the one of the first and second rollers is arranged essentially along the rotational axis of the other of the first and second rollers, as seen perpendicular to a plane made up of two mutually orthogonal axes which are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the bearing element.

43. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the rollers of the bearing element are relatively movable in the longitudinal direction of the section.

44. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 43, wherein said rollers are relatively movable under spring action.

45. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, comprising at least one drive assembly which is drivable by a motor and adapted to drive the belt.

46. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 45, wherein the drive assembly is a chain.

47. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30:

further comprising a carrier which is extended along said section and adapted to support the belt; and

wherein said bearing element is arranged between said carrier and said section.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

48. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 46, wherein the carrier is formed by drive assembly which is drivable by a motor and adapted to drive the conveyor belt.

49. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 47, wherein the carrier is a chain.

50. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30:

comprising two chains each extended along the section and adapted to drive and support the belt at a longitudinal side edge of each of the belts; and

wherein the bearing element is in the form of a roller bearing element and is arranged between the associated chain and section.

51. (Previously presented) A supporting installation as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the section comprises a bearing seat extended along the section and being L shaped in cross section and adapted to receive said bearing element.

52. (Currently amended) A bearing element for a supporting installation <u>for supporting a number of turns, extending helically one upon the other in a stack, of an at least partially self-supporting conveyor belt</u>, comprising:

a plurality of first rollers and a plurality of second rollers;

said first and second rollers being alternately arranged in succession to form an elongate bearing element;

the rotational axes of the first and second rollers being mutually orthogonal and also perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the bearing element; and

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

two neighboring rollers being interconnected by a connecting element, said connecting element holding the neighbouring rollers spaced apart from each other ~~while allowing relative mobility between the rollers in the longitudinal direction of the bearing element~~.

53. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein said relative mobility is provided by elongate holes formed in the respective connecting elements and extending in the longitudinal direction of the bearing element and encompassing a web of one of two neighboring rollers.

54. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein each connecting element is arranged so as to allow mutual resilience of the rollers.

55. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the diameter of one of the first and second rollers is greater than the width of the other of the first and second rollers.

56. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein each roller comprises a web.

57. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein said connecting element comprises a generally U shaped piece with a hole formed in each leg of the U shaped piece, which holes are aligned with each other, the web of the U shaped piece grasping a web of one of the first and the second rollers and said holes receiving a web of the other of the first and the second rollers.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

58. (Previously presented) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 57, wherein a resilient lip is arranged on the edge of the hole in one of the legs of the U shaped piece, said lip being extended towards the hole in the other of the legs of the U shaped piece.

59. (New) A bearing element as claimed in Claim 52, wherein the connecting element allows relative mobility between the rollers in the longitudinally direction of the bearing element.

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100